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JOB WORK
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CIENEGUITA COPPER CO.

The Big Mines in the Sahuaripa District of Sonora Taken Over By Phoenix and Tucson People.

Last year in January, and at various times since, THE OASIS made mention of the big copper mines near Matarachi, in the Sahuaripa district, which had been acquired by Dr. J. M. Ford and Col. Wm. Christy of Phoenix, Judge Wm. H. Barnes, of Tucson, Mr. George Beebe, of Hermosillo, and their associates.

For the exploitation, proper development and operation of the properties mentioned, the gentlemen named have organized, under the laws of Arizona, the Cieneguita Copper Company, and under the laws of Mexico, La Compania Minera de la Cieneguita. The first named company owns all the shares of stock in the Mexican company, and the latter named corporation holds in fee simple and by contract to purchase, all the property in Mexico included in the possessions of the corporation, which are as follows:

The Rancho de la Cieneguita, of about 3,200 acres of land—about five square miles—and an individual interest in the Rancho Iglesia, an area including about 360 square miles of land, nearly all of which is heavily timbered, affording inexhaustible supplies of timber for all purposes.

The mines of the company are located in this great area, and include the Chipiona group, comprising the Chipiona, Colorado and Plomosa mines; containing an area of twenty-four pertenencias; and the Tajos group, Los Ostimuris group, the Yerba Buena group, the Descomulgada group, the Prieto group, and the Colorado de Casita. Outside of the Chipiona group the area of these various groups aggregates sixty-four pertenencias (more than 160 acres of land), and in addition thereto there have been located one thousand pertenencias to protect and connect the various groups on the ledges of ore which they occupy. Thus the company owns some 3,000 acres of mining ground, under the laws of the Republic governing the tenure of mines.

The extent of the "antigua" workings upon the surface, the numerous tunnels and drifts, the larger dumps and slag piles, the ruins of ancient dwellings and smelting furnaces indicate that at one time the Real de Cieneguita was a region of wonderful activity. The suspension of that activity and abandonment of the mines was doubtless due to the change in the character of the ores from those near the surface, which were easily worked with the crude appliances of those early times, to base ores impossible of reduction. There remained nothing to do but cessation of work after they had uncovered and exposed thousands of tons of sulphide ores, rich in copper, gold and silver; but it was beyond their skill to extract their values. It is evident that while they worked the oxidized portions of the vein, that

part which parted from its values by leaching, their reward was great. The productive portion of the Chipiona, Colorado and Plomosa, which was the top parts of the same vein, cover a width of more than four hundred feet, and was worked to a depth averaging seventy-five feet through a distance of more than three-quarters of a mile. In hundreds of openings there yet remain evidences of the large quantities of ores extracted.

The Chipiona vein cuts longitudinally through a hill about one mile long and half a mile in width. The vein has a slight dip to the east. The cropping of the vein is about

of three hundred and fifty feet below the point where it was encountered by the miners on the top of the vein.

By traversing the old works along the cropping of the vein to the southern end of the mountain, a distance of three thousand feet from the mouth of the lowest tunnel on the north end of the vein, the sulphide ores occur in two distinct openings, more than three hundred feet apart and fully one hundred feet higher on the hill than the apex of the ore on the upper tunnel of the Chipiona at the north end of the hill.

The width of ore now standing on

would exceed fifty millions of dollars in value.

Beside the properties above mentioned, there are included in the company's holdings many other valuable properties, including the Tajos group, the Tayapa mine, the Yerba Buena group, Los Ostimuris group, Descomulgada group and the Colorado de Casita.

All these properties are "antiguas," and in every direction there are extensive evidences of their having been once worked upon a tremendous scale.

In 1859 there was published by Harper Brothers, in New York, a scientific description or report upon these properties, by Mr. Robert L. D'Aumale, who was then the official assayer of the State of Sonora, which is very interesting reading, and as such will eventually find a place in the columns of THE OASIS.

Last year Mr. T. E. Farish, the eminent mining engineer, visited the properties and made a report thereon, setting forth in high terms the vast amount of mineral wealth there exposed. Mr. Farish's report will also be given space in THE OASIS at a later date.

These properties were secured by Mr. George Beebe, who presented them to the attention of the gentlemen named at the outset of this article. The following, taken from the Arizona Democrat of last Saturday, will be of interest in this connection:

"Mr. George Beebe, of Yerba Buena, Sonora, Mexico, arrived in the city yesterday to consult with Dr. Ford, Col. Christy and Hon. T. E. Farish, with whom he is interested in the Cieneguita Copper Company, and of which Mr. Beebe is the manager. A future sale of some of this company's stock and a consultation regarding development work now in progress at the mines is the object of Mr. Beebe's visit.

"I have owned these mines for three years," said Mr. Beebe. "I spent a year in thorough investigation of the property, and I am satisfied that they are the largest and richest mineral deposits in the world. Judge Barnes, Dr. Ford, Col. Christy and Tom Farish are associated with me in the property. We have capitalized them and are arranging to put them in active operation."

A Range Reserve.

The Santa Cruz valley is to be reserved by the government and placed under a commission to be governed in the same manner as the forest reserves, says the Citizen. This is part of a great experiment being conducted by the department of agriculture, and the Santa Cruz valley reserve will be the first of its kind to be established in the United States. The valley is to be reserved in order to restock it with the native grasses and to regulate the number of cattle that will be permitted to graze on the land. This reservation will not exclude homestead or mineral entry, but will merely place the land under supervision of a government commission.

U. S. Custom House manifest blanks for sale at THE OASIS.



OLD CHURCH
AT
SAHUARIPA

400 feet wide, and consists of the leached remains of copper ore, technically known as "gossan" and sometimes called "iron hat."

Upon the north end of the Chipiona hill there have been driven in on the veins numerous tunnels, four of which can be entered. These tunnels enter the hill at varying depths below its crest, five hundred feet being the lowest. They run in on the vein from 150 to 200 feet. They are not located regularly one above the other on the pitch of the vein, but irregularly covering a width of more than one hundred feet on the vein. In all these tunnels the sulphide ores are encountered, being in bands or swells from five to sixteen feet of solid ore.

In the upper tunnel of the Chipiona the ore is shown standing more than one hundred feet high and ten feet thick, as left by the ancients, they having stoped out all of the oxidized portions of the vein. The apex of this exposed ore is taken as the highest point on the hill where sulphides are encountered on the north end of it. The lower tunnel shows the same ore at a point three hundred and fifty feet lower down on the vein, so that the base ore can be shown to a depth

the Colorado vein, as shown by the various tunnels and openings, is five feet of solid sulphide ore. This vein is parallel with the Chipiona and sixty-five feet away. The width of the solid sulphide ore in the latter vein is ten feet, and in both veins the ores are shown to be of the same quality and richness. It is authoritatively estimated that the amount of ore which can be taken out of these veins to a depth of three hundred and fifty feet, and extending through to the two openings on the south end of the vein, will approximate two millions of tons. This estimate is based upon the width of the ore now shown in the two veins, extending down to the point where it is shown in the lower tunnel, to a depth of three hundred and fifty feet, and extending along the strike of the vein to where the ore appears in the south end of the mountain.

Competent experts estimate that the amount of silver contained in this mass of ore will exceed 350,000,000; that the gold at \$2.50 per ton would amount to \$12,500,000; that with saving 5 per cent. of the copper there would be a production of more than 250,000 tons of metal, that at present prices